

Serial No.: 10/674,428
Atty. Docket No.: P69160US0

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please amend the last paragraph as follows:

--For instance, U.S. Pat. No. 3,690,320 and GB patent applications Nos. 2 268 065 and 2 000 683 disclose collecting bag with closure devices, in which strips of the interlocking-elements type, such as ~~Velcro~~ VELCRO hook and loop fastening elements, are placed on each of the film blanks of the discharge portion and which after folding the discharge portion tightly are brought into contact with each other.--

On page 7, before line 2, insert the following new paragraph:

--Further scope of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description given hereinafter. However, it should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.--.

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On page 8, please amend the first full paragraph beginning on line 3, and the paragraph following thereafter, as follows:

--The bag is brought from the open or discharge position shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 to a position of use, in which the bag is closed, by a number of folding operations and in a manner that will be described in further detail below. In order to keep the collecting bag in the closed position, a locking device is provided, which in the embodiment shown comprises foldable locking strips 12 and 13 projecting from the side edges 8c and 8d of the discharge portion 8 at the proximal end 8a thereof. The projecting foldable locking strips 12 and 13, which may be formed integrally with one of or both the film blanks 2,3, are provided with a first set of locking means, which in the embodiment shown is constituted by male Velcro VELCRO hook and loop fastening elements 10,11, but which may also comprise snap fastening members, different types of adhesive members etc. and are releasably engageable with a second set of mating locking means provided on the back side of the second film blank 3. In the embodiments shown, the second set of locking means is constituted by a plate 14 of female Velcro VELCRO hook and loop fastening elements. It should be noted that the locking device

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may be designed in other ways, e.g. as described in applicant's International application No. WO 99/25278, or as a traditional locking clip.

A first plate member 21 is provided at the distal edge 2a of the first film blank 2. A second plate member 22 is provided on the extension 3a of the second film blank 3. The plate members 21,22 are made from a suitable, relatively stiff semi-rigid material, e.g. nylon, high-density polyethylene, polypropylene, styrene etc. The plate members may e.g. be formed from the same material as the film blanks themselves, although in a considerably larger thickness. The plate members may be made from identical materials and have the same thickness, or possess different properties. For instance, the plate members may be cut as solid plates from an appropriate sheet material.--

On page 11, after the last line, please insert the following paragraph:

--The invention being thus described, it will be apparent that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would

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be recognized by one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.--.